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## Taxpayers Revolt

The winds of public feeling concerning the tax problem are growing—and on occasion they reach gale force. On October 15th, the voters of the State of Oregon provided dramatic proof of that.

The last session of the Oregon legislature voted in a tax bill increasing state revenues for the biennium by some \$64 million—a very large sum for a state with a population of well under 2 million people. The money was to be raised by various devices, one being elimination of federal income tax payments as a deduction against the heavy state income tax.

Under a unique Oregon law, such measures as this can be referred to popular vote, if a sufficient number of signatures can be raised by petition. A small town newspaper publisher undertook the task. He was virtually without resources—it was doubtful if sufficient funds were available to even pay the printing bills. Time was very short. And when the petitions did appear, there was no effective organization to bring them to the attention of the voters. One literally had to look for a petition if one wanted to sign it. So, there was a widespread belief that there was small chance of obtaining the 23,000 valid signatures needed to bring the referendum about.

The result: More than twice the needed number were obtained. Then according to law, the special election, in which the new tax bill would be the one and only issue to be voted upon, was called.

With this first long step taken, the campaigns for and against the bill began and swiftly gathered momentum. And, from the campaign's brief history and conclusion, an extremely significant moral may be drawn.

The prime argument on behalf of the bill was that it was essential in order to maintain the state's standards of higher education and to provide for welfare commitments and programs. And the forces that were mobilized on its side were tremendously impressive. They also were closely organized, well-financed forces, with adequate means of bringing their side of the story to all concerned. They included all the principal executive and administrative officers of the Oregon government and the great majority of members of the legislature: the state's principal newspapers, and most if not all of the leading labor, educational, agricultural, business and civic groups and organizations. Radio and TV coverage, while time was given to both sides, seemed definitely weighted in favor of the bill.

The opposition, on the other hand, was almost pitifully scattered and disorganized. It consisted, so far as one could see, of a few dedicated volunteers whose message was that the necessary activities of the state of Oregon—including the maintenance of higher education and legitimate welfare responsibilities—could be carried on without this bill, if the state would follow a program of economy in all the nonessentials, and in obtaining greater return for each dollar spent on essentials.

The ultimate result, after all the shouting ended: The bill was just defeated, it was slaughtered, by a margin of more than three to one.

It can be argued, of course, that this was just the verdict in one state and that it doesn't necessarily indicate that national sentiment would, if given the chance at the polls, follow the same pattern. But that is a frail argument. From all one can learn—including the findings of public opinion polls which have proven remarkably accurate on many past occasions—the public feeling toward ever-increasing taxes is reaching the dimensions of revolt. This does not mean that the people are against high educational standards, or against aid to the blind and sick and derelict, or against any basic function of economic and human value which can be provided only by some branch of government. But it does mean, unless all the signs are wrong, that people are convinced that extravagance has reached great and destructive dimensions in government and must be curbed.

## Those Enduring Remarks

Most of us grow up believing that President Lincoln made his great speech at Gettysburg with little or no preparation; that on the train he jotted a few notes on an envelope or a scrap of paper. Many also believe that newspapers ignored the speech.

These beliefs are explored and exploded in a magazine article, "A Few Appropriate Remarks at Gettysburg," by Tom Mahoney in an American Legion Magazine article condensed in the November Reader's Digest. Neither belief is correct.

All who have trouble finding the right words can take comfort in knowing that President Lincoln worked at intervals for more than two weeks on the 10 immortal sentences that he spoke 100 years ago this November 19. He wrote half of them in Washington, completed a draft the night before in Gettysburg and finished another the next day just before going to the battlefield.

He changed "this we may in all propriety do" to the more forceful "It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this." He made changes even as he spoke, forgetting "poor" in "our poor power" and adding "under God" for a total of 270 words. Of these 190 are one syllable. He spoke less than five minutes.

OAKDALE, CALIF., LEADER: "Some youngsters in an Arizona school declined to rise when the National Anthem was sung and were expelled from the school. Their parents took the case to court, asking reinstatement of their children, using the right of individual freedom as the basis of their suit. The judge ruled that the First Amendment's 'guarantee of religious freedom and freedom of expression' was his reason for invalidating the law. . . . The so-called individual freedoms do have a limit beyond which they cannot extend and one, it would seem, should be the nationally accepted patriotic observances we will all offer to our National Anthem and our American Flag."

## When You Were Dying—



## ROYCE BRIER

# Libya a Poor Little Rich Country With Oil

The Romans used Libya as a granary. The Americans fought their first foreign war there, against the Barbary pirates. Mussolini tried to colonize it, with his customary bumbling. Field Marshal Rommel tried to slice through it to Suez, but failed. After the war a tribal Emir, or king, set up a constitution-

al monarchy, and it was recognized by the United Nations. The country has been church-mouse poor for millenniums. The population of 1.2 million is mostly Bedouin, mostly nomad and illiterate. The land is largely Sahara. A coastal strip grows dates, olives and grain, but exports only ran \$10 million. The

United States and Britain helped, our aid totaling about \$200 million. Then late in the last decade, Libya struck oil.

Supposing you had been scrounging along on a few thousand, and suddenly are endowed with \$100,000 annually.

This is the scale of Libya's horrible fate. Half a dozen British and American oil companies began striking gushers south of Tripoli. Rigs, pipelines, refineries poured millions into the country. Tripoli was awash with Western and Arab oil workers. High rise apartment houses sprouted to house them. Automobiles gorged the streets.

Libya is cagey about its prosperity. Officially, under 50-50 agreements, oil gave the country a \$65 million revenue last year. Oilmen scoff at this figure, say it is more like \$150 million.

A funny thing happened on the way to affluence. Tripoli had never had a shanty town, like Latin America and Asian cities, because the farmers farmed and the nomads kept to their flocks. Suddenly Tripoli had a shanty town of 70,000.

An elite few thousand Libyans became skilled workers and commanded big wages. The desert people decided to cash in, and now they sit in the tea houses and won't work for less than skilled wages.

The farms and orchards were half deserted, the flocks decreased, and agricultural export dropped to \$3 million. The King and his prime minister, Fekini, have been trying to get them back to the land, but they prefer to wait for the pot of black gold at the end of the rainbow. The country, self-sufficient for centuries, must now import foodstuffs.

The King seems to be a sensible old fellow. He admits 75 years, though many say he is 85, and wonder what happens when he dies. Indicated oil reserves promise Libya may rival some Arabian fields in another decade. But the big question is: do you get richer, only to get poorer? Some have thought that's the way it goes.

## Strength for These Days (From The Bible)

Fear not little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. —(Luke 12:32)

We need never be afraid of life's tribulations and hardships if we trust in God's offer of the kingdom, for in this way we will be able to forget our troubles and relax in the peace of God.

## James Dorias

# Is Growing Automation A Boon or a Disaster?

Is the continuing automation of American industry a boon or a disaster—a genuine cause for worry or a natural development in the centuries-old trend toward mechanization that has and will continue to improve living standards for the great majority?

Twelve years ago, when the electronics industry began to assume real importance on the American scene, it was widely predicted that automation was proceeding with such speed that factories would be fully automated in 10 to 20 years, and that, in the words of one expert, America was faced with "a decade or more of ruin and despair."

Obviously, the prediction was somewhat exaggerated.

## Mailbox

Editor's Note: The following is a copy of a letter sent to the Torrance Police Department for publication in this column.

Gentlemen: To the officers who donated their time to selling tickets to the FAMILY benefit show last Saturday night;

To the performers who gave such an exceptional show enjoyable by all the FAMILY;

To all those who worked very hard to plan and put together a nice, decent FAMILY entertainment;

To the officers who will be donating their time to selling tickets to the FAMILY benefit show next year.

We send our thanks and deepest gratitude, and our sympathy. We only hope that before next year comes around you good and decent people on the force will have been able to weed out the traitor who was responsible for the most unacceptable first act in this year's show.

All the burlesque theaters that we have ever heard of advertise "Adults only." . . . isn't that the law? Are your groups exempt?

MRS. G. H. BOURHENNE

## Quote

"If communism is as wonderful as they claim it is, it seems that they would take down their iron curtain and put it in some picture window." — Ernest Miskell, Minneapolis (Minn.) Argus.

Allen Green, Portola Valley — "It has been said that Tito will not be overthrown by insults shouted from an American sidewalk, but neither will he be overthrown by billions of dollars in American aid."

Francis X. O'Brien, L. A. real estate agent — "An interesting comment on legalized gambling is that Nevada—which has it—led the nation in per capita crime. There was more larceny there than in any other state. Nevada was also first in rape and auto theft, came in second in murder."

Sargent Shriver, Peace Corps director, speaking in Berkeley — "In Washington, we refer to California as the Peace Corps State. It has produced more volunteers than any other state and U.C. more than any other school."

F. R. Foppiano, San Mateo — "Some of the biggest teenage problems today are caused by letting the youngsters own and operate vehicles. The minimum age for qualified drivers should be 21."

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Yale Brozen of the Graduate School of Business at the University of Chicago, writing in the magazine "Washington World," points out that there are still employed today more than 12 million production workers in factories, about the same number as at the time the dire prediction was made. In that period, total employment in manufacturing industries has actually increased by more than a million men. How rapidly automation comes about, Brozen contends, depends upon the availability of capital and the rapidity of the rise in wage rates. Total spending on business plant and equipment is less than \$40 billion a year, and almost half this amount is required to replace obsolete and worn-out plants. This leaves a relatively modest amount available for conversion to automated equipment. Brozen estimates that it would cost more than \$2.5 trillion to completely automate all American manufacturing, and that at the current rate of modernization, this would take two centuries to come about. In actuality, the recent pace of technological change is no greater than in the past, and probably is slowing. Where automation has been achieved, its effect, according to Professor Brozen, has been to increase the relative number of maintenance men, engineers, office employees, production control specialists and other non-machine operators — a continuation of a trend which has been going on for a long time. "The primary effect of automation," he states, "is not a reduction in the number of jobs available. Rather, it makes it possible for us to do many things which otherwise could not and would not be done."

## Our Man Hoppe

# Our Leaders Never Lie

Art Hoppe

I'm sorry. I take it all back. I thought our leaders in Washington had a hand in that military coup in South Vietnam. Mainly because they'd been saying for months they sure would like a military coup in South Vietnam.

But it turns out they didn't have a thing to do with it. They didn't even have the faintest idea the coup was coming. Not an inkling. And for that we have our Government's solemn word. I'm sure it makes us feel much better.

Moreover, it speaks highly for the professional soldierly qualities of our 16,500 military advisers out there in South Vietnam. They did their duty to a man. And kept their mouths shut.

For example, take our military advisers with the 7th Vietnamese Division. Which, as you know, climbed out of its trenches in the Mekong Delta and marched 80 miles north to Saigon to help overthrow President Diem. Now it's hard to believe our military advisers merely waved good-bye to them without asking where they were going. So obviously our military advisers had a hand in the plans. Giving, I assume, military advice.

(Scene: Headquarters, 7th Vietnamese Division, Office of Colonel Taylorwell G. Max, Chief U.S. Military Advisor. Enter General Tim Buc Thu.)

COLONEL MAX: Morning, General. Off to the attack, eh? And what's our objective for today?

GENERAL THU: Saigon.

COLONEL MAX: Good, a major offensive. Any special target?

GENERAL THU: Ah so. The presidential Palace.

COLONEL MAX: Ah, an interesting tactical problem, that. Let's see what we've got in the library here that might help. Hannibal, Clausewitz, Seven Days in May. . . Wait, I'll get the Pentagon on the phone.

GENERAL THU: It is most kind.

COLONEL MAX: We like to help where we can.

Hello? Operations? Oh, hi, Charlie. Have you got any plans in the files for attacks on Presidential Palaces. Good. Let me get it down. A tank corps up Pennsylvania Avenue. Yep. An infantry division deploys over South Lawn. Right. Assault troops hit a Rose Garden. Got it. Take Caroline and John-John alive. Good thinking. Thanks, Charlie, and say hello to the Mrs.

GENERAL THU (scribbling): We are most grateful.

COLONEL MAX: Glad to be of service. And as you go into battle, let me say as one soldier to another that I'm sure you'll give your all for your country, your people and your President.

GENERAL THU (bowing): More or less.

So the coup went off like clockwork. And it certainly was a feather in the cap of our military advisers. At last. But it's too bad they didn't know what was going on so they could have also advised our leaders in Washington.

But, no sir, our leaders were as ignorant as our advisers. We have their solemn word for it. And I'm sure they wouldn't lie to us. I'm sure. Because in a democracy we must have faith our leaders wouldn't lie to us. So let's all have faith in the ignorance of our leaders. There now. Don't you feel better?

## Morning Report:

The color of their money was O. K. So we sold wheat to the Russians, who have a shortage of wheat and a surplus of gold. While with us it was the other way around.

But it may not always be that way. There's a bill in Congress to subsidize the mining of gold, sort of in the same way we now subsidize the growing of wheat. With both plans in operation, I suppose we will then build up a gold surplus to equal our wheat surplus.

The Soviet Union made our farm plan look good by buying wheat. It looks as if our big future lies in the storage business.

Abe Mellinkoff